



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS MEDORA/BEACH GET WATER

"The long wait for water is over for Medora and Beach residents."

BEACH, October 8, 2004 –Clare Carlson, state director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development today presented a symbolic check to the North Dakota State Water Commission as part of the total funding package for construction of the Southwest Pipeline Project Medora-Beach Phase I.

The check for \$2.8 million represents a water loan for \$1,540,000 and a grant for \$1,260,000. The grant was made available through the Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone set aside funds. All the funds are administered through USDA Rural Development's utility programs. Medora and Beach are located in the Southwest REAP Zone.

"Water is a necessity for any rural community," said Carlson. "Investing in a basic community need such as quality drinking water supports the commitment of President George Bush and the Bush Administration's vision for a strong and vibrant rural America."

The Southwest pipeline provides a distribution system to bring water from Lake Sakakawea to the city of Dickinson for treatment. The money for this phase was used to construct service to the cities of Medora, Beach, and Sentinel Butte, and to farmers and ranchers throughout the area.

Total project cost is \$7.8 million with \$5 million in grant funds provided by the State of North Dakota.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. Its mission is to deliver programs that will support increased economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. It administers financial and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development and critical community and technology infrastructure.

In Fiscal Year 2004, USDA Rural Development provided over \$78 million dollars in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens. For more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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